



Date: March 24, 2006,
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: City Report For Week Ending March 24, 2006

This *City Report* highlights various activities for the week ending March 24, 2006. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Public Works, Traffic and Transportation Bureau

A new traffic signal was activated at the intersection of Studebaker Road and Barrios Street, adjacent to El Dorado Park between Spring Street and Willow Street. The traffic signal provides a controlled pedestrian crossing for residents from neighborhoods to the west and access to major park facilities including ball fields, tennis courts, a playground, a skate park, a senior center, a library, and other administrative buildings to the east.

Harbor Department

Working to improve the air quality in Long Beach, the Port of Long Beach issued Green Flags, representing outstanding environmental achievement, to 333 individual vessels, 100 fleet operators and 13 of the Port's largest operators for observing speed limits in 2005. To raise the compliance rate from the current 66 per cent to more than 90 percent, and further improve air quality, the Port of Long Beach will offer discounted dockage rates in 2007 to fleets that comply with speed limits at least 90 percent of the time. The discounts will cost the Port as much as \$2.2 million a year.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Library Services

In celebration of *Long Beach Reads One Book* week, more than 60 guests enjoyed two readings by *My California* authors Edward Humes and Veronique de Turenne, and a one-woman living history performance on Margaret Bixby's life in the third quarter of the 19th century at Rancho Los Cerritos on March 18.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Health and Human Services

A presentation on mental health, anxiety, relationships issues and self-esteem will be discussed on **Saturday, March 25**, 9:00 a.m., at the Miller Family Health Education Center, 3820 Cherry Avenue. The presentation, part of the *Growing a Healthy Family* series, is free to the public and continental breakfast will be served.

Planning and Building, Community Development

Interested parties can learn about the City's plans for preservation at a public meeting on **Saturday, March 25**, 10:00 a.m. at the Main Library, 101 Pacific Avenue.

Financial Management

Business owners interested in selling products and or providing services to the City of Long Beach are invited to attend the City's Business Opportunities Open House on **March 28**, 3:00 p.m., at the Main Library, 101 Pacific Avenue. A special program will be held for Long Beach-based businesses from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Call the City's Purchasing Division at 570.6362 for details.

Community Development, Neighborhood Services

Interested in learning about neighborhood grants and sponsorships? A Bank of America representative will present information on programs and funding available to neighborhoods and organizations at the Neighborhood Resource's *Meet the Funder* workshop on **Thursday, March 30**, 6:00 p.m. Call 570.1010 for details.

Public Works, Environmental Services

Throw away hazardous household waste at a County Roundup on **April 1** at Veteran's Stadium. Visit www.longbeach-recycles.org or call 570.2876 for information.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police

Citywide, police officers responded to 628 priority one, 1,410 priority two and 1,108 priority three calls for service, for a total of 3,146 calls.

Police Chief Antony Batts provided an update on current crime trends and the future direction of the Department to 130 community members at the monthly Community Crime Prevention meeting on March 15.

Fire

Firefighters responded to a total of 2,762 emergency calls for service: 262 calls for fires, of which 36 involved structures; and 1,437 emergency medical calls, of which 1,027 required paramedics.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire, Marine Division

The annual Ocean Lifeguard exam was given and 22 applicants for Ocean Lifeguards have been selected. As part of the hiring process, these successful applicants will participate in an eight-day training program.

Ten Fire units, including two Fire Boats and the Urban Search & Rescue unit, responded to a scrap metal fire on board the commercial vessel *Globulus* at the Port of Long Beach on March 16. Firefighters used thermal imaging units to identify the location of the burning material and, over the next eight hours, extinguished the fire using approximately 595,000 gallons of seawater. A Health/Hazardous Materials Officer from the Long Beach Health Department and an Assessment Team from the South Coast Air Quality Management District assisted in this effort. Port Operations were largely unaffected by the incident.

Health and Human Services

Nineteen *Healthy Active Long Beach* participants learned about the Food Pyramid, food labels, food safety, and the health benefits of eating fruits and vegetables and being physically active at two Nutrition Education classes, which were taught in English and Spanish.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Community Development and Police

On March 9, ten residents of the South Wrigley Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Area enrolled in the first *English as a Second Language* laptop computer class, a 15-week self-paced program that uses a combination of multimedia, audio and printed materials to help residents learn English. Hosted by the Wrigley Community Police Center, this program is provided through collaboration with the Long Beach Public Library Foundation and resident volunteers. Contact Teresa Gonzalez at Teresa_Gonzalez@longbeach.gov for details.

Community Development, Neighborhood Services

A community meeting was held on March 15 to unite residents from the Willmore City Heritage Association and the West East Community Association in their efforts to address various code enforcement issues in their neighborhoods. Willmore Community Police Center staff and Code Enforcement representatives met with 40 residents to explain zoning requirements, how to report code enforcement violations, and how to identify substandard buildings and inoperable vehicles. Residents were then assigned specific streets in their neighborhoods to monitor and will meet with Code Enforcement staff on a regular basis to report any Code Enforcement violations. For details, contact Teresa Gonzalez at Teresa_Gonzalez@longbeach.gov.

NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

Community Development, Neighborhood Services

Twenty-three residents donated new socks for the homeless at the Neighborhood Resource Center's *Monday Night Potluck Mixer and Sock Drive* on March 20 to support the Greater Long Beach Chapter of the American Red Cross and the New Image Shelter. Quarterly mixers are held to encourage residents and community leaders to network and share ideas to solve neighborhood problems and improve their community. Call 570.1010 for details.

Community Development and Health and Human Services

Code Enforcement staff is continuing to survey the City's business corridors in efforts to address code violations and improve the appearance of business corridors on 10th Street from Martin Luther King to Walnut; Willow Street from the 710 Freeway to Long Beach Blvd.; 4th Street from Alamitos to Redondo; and Artesia from the city's western boundary to Cherry Ave. This effort includes Health Inspectors who inspect apartment buildings located along the corridors. In addition, business owners are educated about common violations and ways to prevent citations from being issued. For details, contact Tom Slater at Tom.Slater@longbeach.gov.

Community Development, Neighborhood Services

An informational workshop on the City's Home Improvement Rebate Program and Residential Rehabilitation Loans was given to 23 homeowners in the North Long Beach Redevelopment's Bret Harte Elementary School Neighborhood Enhancement Area on March 18. Property owners in the area are eligible to apply for the Home Improvement Rebate Program and the Security Lock and Security Lighting Programs until September 1. More than \$2.6 million has been reimbursed to 1,235 North Long Beach homeowners for their home improvement efforts since March 2000. Call 570.6065 for details.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

St. Patrick's Day celebrations, with more than 300 youth and seniors participating in contests, arts and crafts, Irish games, and special St. Patrick's Day meals, were held on March 17 at the Long Beach Senior Center and at regional and community parks. In addition, Adaptive Recreation staff at Stearns Champions Park co-hosted a St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance for more than 80 participants from the Long Beach Special Olympics and the Association of Retarded Citizens.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

A carnival was held at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park with a daily estimated attendance of 500 residents from March 22 through March 27.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

All street, parking lot, and park lighting has been completed at Ed "Pops" Davenport Park, and beams have been set for the trellis that will cover the walkway near the playground.

The demolition of street medians on Long Beach Blvd. between Victoria St. and Greenleaf Blvd. has been completed and new concrete curbs are being installed. Installation of water meters and rough electrical conduit is in progress.

Long Beach Gas & Oil, Gas Services Bureau

A total of 3,013 service calls, including 955 Water Utility Turn Ons and 594 Turn Offs, were completed. During this period, 1,250 Customer Service Orders were completed for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 214 meter maintenance and billing-related orders were completed. In addition, Gas Control/Dispatch (24/7 operation) received 570 emergency phone calls that resulted in 158 emergency orders being sent out.

CONSTRUCTION REPORT

Long Beach Gas and Oil, Gas Pipe Installation

Contact: 570.2060

Alleys west of Oregon and Patterson

Estimated completion: March

Orange Ave. Between Lewis and Cherry Ave.

Estimated completion: April

Clair Del Ave. East of Cherry Ave. and South of Del Amo Blvd.

Estimated completion: May

Long Beach Gas and Oil, Gas Regulator Station Rebuild

Contact: 570.2060

Colorado St. and Nieto Ave.

Estimated Completion: April

Public Works, Street Improvements

Contact: 570.5160

Anaheim Street

Obispo to Ximeno

10th St.

Orange Ave. to Cherry Ave.

Estimated Completion: March

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CONSTRUCTION REPORT (continued)

Public Works, Street Improvements

Atlantic Ave. North of Artesia Blvd. to a point North of 68th St.

Cherry Ave. North of Artesia Blvd. to 70th St.

Artesia Blvd. East of Obispo Ave. to Downey Ave.

Estimated Completion: March

Cherry Ave. Spring St. to Bixby Rd.

Estimated completion: May

GRM: KP: arc

cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager
Reginald Harrison, Deputy City Manager
Suzanne Mason, Deputy City Manager
City Manager Department Heads
Tom Modica, Government Affairs Manager
Jyl Marden, Assistant to the City Manager